

TRANSITION TO ADULT LIVING  
IMPLEMENTATION TEAM MEETING  
JULY 7, 2004  
MINUTES

**WELCOME**

Mike Richardson welcomed everyone and excused Richard Anderson who is out of town. Mike explained that as the Chairs give their reports, they should address the Implementation Plan and let us know of any changes, additions or deletions.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DETAILS**

**Physical and Mental Health Task Group**—Vicki Cottrell and George Delavan reported most assignments are in process and will be done within the timeframes indicated. There were a few minor changes dealing with assignments and tasks and they would be submitted in writing to Amanda or Barbara. The resource inventories were discussed and Mike Richardson suggested adding a task to have Food Stamp information added to the nutrition section of the information for the Website. Mike will have Kathy Link from DWS put that information together.

**Transition Support Funds**—Herman Hooten reported that the funds are in place but the guidelines are not yet developed to direct how the funds will be spent. Richard Walker asked that some of the funds be used for housing needs so that DCFS can do some “risk-sharing” with property owners in order to assure that youth will have greater access to rental properties.

**Transportation Task Group**—Amanda Singer reported that the Practice Alert for driver’s education and obtaining a driver’s license has gone out. DCFS will be running data to determine the number of youth who currently have a driver’s license and how many have taken a drivers education course—so we can track the progress from there. DCFS and Risk Management are still exploring the feasibility of assisting with group coverage—as most of the insurance companies are not willing to work with this population due to the risks.

**Website Task Group**—Kelly Colopy reported that the template has been selected and they are checking out links right now and getting content from the various task groups. As soon as the content is finished, the individuals responsible for the content should get it to Kelly so they can include it on the Website. The Website Task group is still on target for August.

**Employment/Training/Education**—Marie Christman said the Northern Region Pilot has started even though they are still working out a few technical issues. The inventory information is being gathered now but they will need some adjustment in the completion dates. The Education/Training Vouchers are on target and there are several youth who are ready to apply for the funds—however, the UWorks Computer System at DWS isn't ready yet. A strategy will be added regarding employer connections. DCFS will take the lead on that. Marie will submit the changes to Amanda in writing.

**Housing Task Group**—Richard Walker reported that most of their tasks would be done by September. They have a list of potential housing owners—both public and private—but they are trying to do outreach with them now and see who is willing to work with DCFS and these youth. The listing they are doing for the Website will indicate what properties have subsidies, give the monthly rental cost, location, etc. Property owners are anxious to know the youths have some back-up support and that they are being taught appropriate responsibility so they will pay rent on time, use appropriate behavior and avoid property damage. Richard will also connect with the Northern Region Pilot Program to be sure the housing contacts are part of the pilot.

**Life Skills Task Group**—Jane Lewis reported that they have several sub-committees that are working on the tasks indicated in the Implementation Plan. The sub-committees will be delineating the steps that workers will follow with each youth as assessments are completed and integrated into an individual service plan for the youth. The roles of the case manager, the foster parents, and the mentors will be described and indicate how each can help the youth to link with appropriate services.

It was suggested that a new task/assignment be written that ties all of the Life Skills goals and tasks to the tasks of the other groups to be sure all of the appropriate information is included in the service plan for each youth.

**Mentoring Task Group**—Lisa McDonald notified the group that only one RFP (Request for Proposal) will go out rather than two. However, emphasis will still be on getting Senior Mentors involved and also having a rural as well as an urban program. It is expected that there will still be two pilot mentoring programs. The timeline has changed and the RFP's will go out in August.

Also, Barbara Feaster has developed a youth survey on Mentoring. The survey will be distributed by caseworkers and IL (Independent Living) coordinators. This will give valuable feedback from youth about what they hope to see in a mentor. Surveys are due by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

This concluded the reports from the task groups regarding the Implementation Plan. Amanda asked that the chairs inform her as tasks are completed or when any changes are made to the plan and she will update the master copy.

## **MARKETING PLAN—**

Mike Richardson explained that we need to develop a strategy for marketing this plan to a variety of groups—DCFS staff, foster parents, DWS staff, education, other agencies and organizations and to the general public. Each group will require a specific plan in order to educate, train and get the support needed from each group.

Suggestions from the discussion are as follows:

- Make helpful links on the Website and use it to market the plan
- Use the Adult Summit to educate and inform community partners
- Use the former Governor's plans such as "Strengthening the Family" Conferences, or the Marriage Conferences to get information out to the general public. (The Commission on Women and Families) This could also be used with the two gubernatorial candidates.
- Use a Radio Station to assist in an advertising campaign that would be similar to "Baby Your Baby"—but focused on youth
- Use a Hotline or Clearinghouse that can help assist callers to find the information they are seeking. This would be a private organization such as the Christmas Box House rather than a government agency.
- Get the Governor to sponsor a Youth Conference each year—similar to the family and marriage conferences. The focus would be on transition to adult living. (This wouldn't just be aimed at foster youth—but at all youth who are making that transition.)
- If we could get about \$30,000 together—we could contract with someone to do a lot of the PR
- Need to know exactly who our target population is and what we want them to do—know who the customer is
- We need to determine what other partners need to be brought into the process
- The Website will be a good marketing tool but we also need to market the Website so the youth will know it is there and available to them.
- We need to be certain that the resources aren't branded as a government program
- Use the Foster Roster to get information to foster parents
- We need to make connections with all of our partners and educate each other about this initiative—let them know that this is how we are doing business now
- We need to be certain that the youth are getting this information personally

- We need to educate property owners and enlist their support in assisting youth

Vicki Cottrell mentioned that NAMI has some resources and partners that could assist with printed materials. Also, KUED is working with NAMI on producing a film that youth will write, produce and act in. The film is directed at helping youth deal with mental illness. It could open up some opportunities for our foster youth.

Mike suggested that if any others are aware of people with marketing experience, please ask them to assist with this initiative. Please bring any resources you are aware of to the next meeting.

### **OTHER UPDATE ITEMS—**

Marie Christman mentioned that Kelly Colopy is doing a “leavers” study. Kelly and a group of research and data people from various organizations will be gathering information on those who have left care or exited the system and see what kind of information we can gather from them to improve our system. This group has met once and will be meeting again soon. Marie suggested that we have a report on their findings at the next meeting,

Lisa McDonald wanted clarification on how the Implementation Plan fits with the 5-Year Plan developed by LeRoy Franke and the former Independent Living Committee. How do we insure a new administration will continue the plans and how do we assure that it fits with the Federal guidelines?

Amanda Singer has compared the 5-Year Plan with this Implementation Plan and nearly everything fits. The Implementation Plan even goes farther with the rollout of strategies, tasks and assignments. It will be Herman Hooten’s assignment to see that these plans are made part of the DCFS Practice Model Program Guidelines for the Independent Living Program.

Following this discussion the meeting was adjourned until August 4, 2004.

Implementation Team Members and Support Staff Attending:

Mike Richardson  
Marie Christman  
Vicki Cottrell  
George Delavan  
Barbara Feaster  
Steve Jardine  
Michelle Barnett-Youth

Lisa McDonald  
Mary Shumway  
Richard Walker  
Jane Broadhead  
Herman Hooten  
Suzette Martellaro  
Amanda Singer

Barbara Thompson  
Kelly Colopy

Jane Lewis

Excused:  
Richard Anderson  
Richard Dimick

Task Group Members and Guests Attending:

Stacy Brubaker  
Thor Nilsen  
Steve Titensor  
Irina Pierpont  
Pamela Russell  
Joe Leiker  
Mike Beacco  
Mary Jane McGuire

Angie Smith-Barley  
Melissa Larsen  
Erick Jenkins  
Bob Haywood  
Kathy Dimick  
Christina—youth  
Barbara Drake  
Bonnie Athas